

## REMARKS

Allowance of the above captioned application in view of the currently amended claims is respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 71-107 and 109-110 remain pending, including independent claims 71 and 91. Claim 71 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,139,164 to Alfio. Independent claim 91, on the other hand, was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 over Alfio in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,583,698 to Nistri. As now amended, however, it is believed that the claims patentably define over Alfio either alone or in combination with Nistri.

Alfio is directed to a method and device for winding bobbins of rubbery and essentially extensible tape material. In Alfio, a rubbery tape material is subdivided by a cutting device and the narrower tapes are then simultaneously wound individually into bobbins. Specifically, the bobbins are individually wound around hubs (26a through 26d) supported in a freely rotary way, by means of suitable bearings around shafts (28a through 28d) which have a cantilever mount on the extremity of arms. As shown in Fig. 4, each of the shafts have different lengths in order to position each hub to receive a corresponding strip of tape material.

Claim 71 in the present application is directed to a winder for winding a web, while claim 91 is directed to a process for unwinding a parent roll into multiple product rolls. Each of the claims require a plurality of winding modules positioned adjacent to a web transport apparatus. Each winding module contains a mandrel upon which a web is wound. As now amended, and in comparison to Alfio, claims 71 and 91 require that the mandrels be consecutively positioned along the web transport apparatus and that each of the mandrels extend across the web transport apparatus from the first side of the web transport apparatus to the second side of the web transport apparatus.

Alfio, on the other hand, as described above, does not disclose a plurality of winding modules containing mandrels that extend across a web transport apparatus from the first side of the web transport apparatus to the second side of the web transport apparatus. Instead, the hubs (which were equated with Applicants' mandrels in the previous Office Action), only extend over a portion of

the conveyor mat 20 as shown particularly in Figure 4. Further, it would not have been obvious for all of the hubs and/or the axles disclosed in Alfio to extend from one side of the conveyor mat to the opposite side of the conveyor mat. If all of the hubs and/or axles, for instance, extended all the way across the conveyor mat, the preceding axles and/or hubs would create interference with the trailing axles or hubs. For instance, Alfio in column 4 teaches that the shafts must be of different lengths so that the shafts do not give rise to interference between the advancing and the wound tapes. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims patentably define over Alfio either alone or in combination with Nistri.

In addition to the independent claims, it is believed that various dependent claims also patentably define over the cited references. For instance, the subject matter of claims 71-74, 77 and 90 are not disclosed in Alfio. Applicants also traverse the rejection of claims 75, 84, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 101 and 104-106. Applicants further submit that new claims 109 and 110 also patentably define over the prior art cited in the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to argue each of the dependent claims separately.

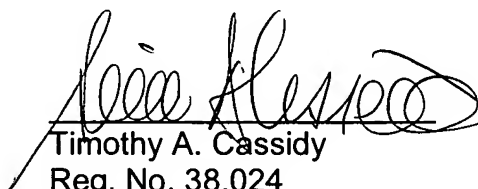
In summary, Applicants submit that the claims as presently pending patentably define over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after this Amendment, however, then Examiner Haugland is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

March 9, 2007

Date

  
Timothy A. Cassidy  
Reg. No. 38,024  
DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

P.O. Box 1449  
Greenville, SC 29602  
(864) 271-1592  
(864) 233-7342